

Environmental Quality Commission

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION
14 REILLY ROAD
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-1132

PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

August 3, 2001

A. Stanley Meiburg
Acting Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Administrator Meiburg,

The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), a seven-member citizen advisory board to the Governor and other state officials, held a meeting on August 2 to review a number of major environmental spills that occurred in Kentucky during the past year. Among these was the Oct. 11, 2000 Martin County Coal Slurry Spill near Inez Kentucky. This was one of the worst coal slurry spills in Kentucky and in the Southeast United States impacting more than 60 miles of waterways.

EQC is pleased that the U.S. EPA is currently pursuing a restoration plan from Martin County Coal to ensure the remediation of the area impacted by the spill. The commission requests that the U.S. EPA consider providing opportunities for public comment and input on the proposed restoration plan. We also request that the U.S. EPA consider appointing an oversight board composed of both federal and state officials to monitor the implementation of the restoration plan and activities. Lastly EQC requests that the U.S. EPA create a public advisory committee to advise the oversight board on issues of public concern and provide a forum for public input.

EQC believes Kentuckians deserve to be kept informed about the Martin County Coal Slurry Spill and the restoration of the environment. These recommendations provide for public input and involvement currently lacking in the process. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aloma W. Dew".

Aloma Dew, Chair

Cc: Erik Somerville, EPA
Secretary James E. Bickford
Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency